Appendix F: 2022 Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Business and Stakeholder Survey Results
Survey Response Quick Look

201 Total Responses

91% of respondents working at for-profit organizations were based in Alaska

95% of all respondents work for Alaska based organizations
Survey Respondent Organization Type

- For-profit business: 94
- Nonprofit Organization: 75
- Government Entity: 19

*Note: The total of all categories may not total to 201. Some survey respondents chose not to answer some questions.
Survey Respondent Industries

- Nonprofit (not otherwise specified)
- Accommodation/Tourism
- Other
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Local Government
- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Educational Services
- Alaska Native Corporation
- Wholesale/Retail
- Economic Development Organization
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate
- Construction
- Information/Communications
- Health Care
- Food Services
- State Government
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Utilities
- Workforce Development

# of Respondents

*Note: The total of all categories may not total to 201. Some survey respondents chose not to answer some questions.

- 13% classified themselves as nonprofits with no other industry specified
- 11% of respondents were in accommodation/tourism
- 6% of respondents were in agriculture
Position of Respondents within Organization

89% of respondents held senior positions at their organizations, either as CEO, a senior executive, or self-employed.
52% of respondents worked at organizations older than 20 years. However, more business respondents were from firms younger than 20 years.
Size of Respondent Organizations

- 0-19 employees: 70 respondents (95%)
- 20-99 employees: 20 respondents (27%)
- 100-249 employees: 15 respondents (20%)
- 250-499 employees: 5 respondents (6%)
- 500-999 employees: 2 respondents (3%)
- 1,000 or more employees: 1 respondent (1%)

83% of respondents were housed at organizations that employed fewer than 100 employees.
Attitudes toward Alaska's economic future were predominantly negative, both from respondents at for-profit businesses, and nonprofits and government organizations.
How do Respondents Feel About their Industry's Outlook in the Next Year?

For-Profit Businesses
- Positive 22.99%
- Neutral 36.78%
- Negative 40.23%

All Other Organizations
- Positive 24.39%
- Neutral 34.15%
- Negative 41.46%

While slightly better than the outlook on the overall economy, respondents report negative attitudes toward their industry's outlook.
How do Respondents Feel About Quality of Life in Alaska?

For-Profit Businesses
- Neutral 45.98%
- Positive 22.99%
- Negative 31.03%

All Other Organizations
- Neutral 52.38%
- Positive 16.67%
- Negative 30.95%

The largest amount of respondents, from both businesses and other organizations, reported feeling neutral about quality of life in Alaska.
What Barriers do Respondents See for their Organizations?

All types of organizations found the cost of doing business (healthcare, energy, freight, materials/supplies, and labor) to be a constraint for their organization.
Continued...What Barriers do Respondents See for their Organizations?

Overall, respondents found regulations and taxes (local, state, and federal) to be the least problematic in Alaska, with the majority of respondents ranking them either "mildly problematic" or "not a concern."
Continued...What Barriers do Respondents See for their Organizations?

Looking at the responses of for-profit businesses on their own, the results are nearly identical. With variable associated with the cost of doing business and workforce availability listed as constraints.
Similar to the overall responses, for-profit businesses found regulations and taxation to not be a constraint. However, differing from the overall results, businesses listed federal regulations as a larger constraint.
What is the Most Limiting Factor for Respondents' Organizations?

Workforce was cited as the top limiting factor by all organization types. However, after that results diverge. Operating costs are among the top constraints cited by businesses, while capacity and financing ranked high among nonprofit and government respondents.
How do Respondents Perceive the Impact of Various Economic "Enablers"?

All Organizations' Responses

- Housing availability
- Technology infrastructure (i.e. broadband)
- Transportation infrastructure
- Commercial/industrial real estate availability
- Availability of credit or finance
- Public safety
- Access to arts and entertainment
- Access to outdoor recreation

Respondents cite predominately negative perceptions of housing availability and transportation infrastructure as economic enablers. Perception of access to arts and entertainment and access to outdoor recreation were ranked among the most positive.
Among for-profit business respondents, as a sub population of survey responses, perceptions of economic enablers were largely similar.
What Types of Projects do Respondents Think will Boost the Economy?
Which Services do Respondents Think will Help their Organizations Expand?

- Transportation infrastructure improvements
- Technology infrastructure improvements
- Workforce training
- Increased access to capital
- Marketing assistance
- Business planning or advising
- Professional networking opportunities
- Assistance with regulations, permits, licenses
- Housing
- Workforce recruitment
- Revision of local and state rules and regulations
- Design/Engineering Technical Assistance
- Energy Transition Investments
- Open local gasoline and diesel refineries
- Mentorship for new businesses
- Adult education
- Childcare

With a relatively similar opinions between for-profit businesses and other organizations, infrastructure improvements rank the highest for services to improve organizational expansion. Workforce training and increased access to capital also ranked among the top four.
Other Commentary from Survey Respondents

Juneau - "Affordable housing needs to be at the top of the list - my business is losing employees (both staff leaving town due to lack of housing, and applicants who accept employment then withdraw due to lack of housing); workforce shortages directly related to lack of affordable housing has led my business to reduce the work we do and use waitlists for critical healthcare services due to lack of staff."

Anchorage - "There needs to be collaborative work between industries, government and the legislature to develop strategic policies to create economic expansion."

Fairbanks - "Focus on wind-solar-battery energy, blue economy, better housing design, and leveraging government-industry-academia nexus."

Unalaska - "The state could expand marketing and investment for, Study in Alaska programs, Live and Work in Alaska Programs, Alaska travel and tourism programs, in order to encourage more people outside of the state to know about the opportunities, as well as keep the brain drain as minimal as possible."

Kotzebue - "I truly believe in developing the small business sector. More work needs to focus on economic development in our villages. Each village in Alaska should be known for one product or activity they produce. Continue support programs for commercial fishermen and small farmers."